

# The Case

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## A FAR REACHING SCANDAL UNCOVERED



By EMILE N. CORNAY  
Former Chief Clerk U. S. Mint  
New Orleans, La.

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# CIVIL-SERVICE PROSTITUTED

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SILENT WITNESS

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THE RECORD AS MADE UP ON INVESTIGATION BY  
THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

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SIDE GLANCE OF A REVENUE SYSTEM THE JOINT FABRIC  
OF FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND REFEREES  
OF THE ADMINISTRATION

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FACTS TOUCHING A COALITION OF POLITICS  
AND PUBLIC SERVICE

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MACHINERY OF LAW MOTIONLESS FOR TEN MONTHS  
MOVES IN THE SHADOW OF  
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

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Price, 35 Cents,

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By EMILE N. CORNAY

*The rights of an individual (per se) is a matter of little consequence; but when a toleration of violence to them, through abuse of power, raises doubts as to the safety of a multitude, similarly situated, individuality is swallowed up by the broader question of Public Policy.*



Nothing of Government worth preserving has advanced without free and fearless discussion. The acts of public officials, whether of commission or omission, in either high or low stations, are at all times subject to inspection; and a dispassionate criticism of short-comings, on strict lines of facts, is conducive to healthy conditions.

This publication furnishes a chapter on a subject close to the public mind. It deals with a record indicating something out of joint, suggestive that Civil-Service needs a Doctor.

It ought to be read by every employee of the Government, for it tells of things of vital individual concern.

It ought to be read by members of the Civil-Service Reform League; as it furnishes a strong argument for the cause of existence of that association.

It furnishes good reading for members of Congress, as it may suggest the need of legislation to make it dangerous in the future for political managers to levy tribute on the salaries of Government employees. No less can it be read with profit by the great masses, unfamiliar with what goes on in the whirl of politics, who will be informed of things they ought to know.

### SALIENT FACTS.

Systematic violations Civil-Service laws (character of which calls for summary dismissal from office.)

The referee of the administration an active force of the system.

Charges of a levy on the salaries of Government employees through a political organization, filed with Civil-Service Commission July 22nd, 1910.

Charges investigated September 1910.

Six months' correspondence with authorities asking for a decision without results.

Congressional Committee on Reform in Civil-Service asked to make inquiries, May 18th 1911.

Member of Committee calls for record (which was not forthcoming) May 27th.

Reported request for resignation of two Federal Officials June 25th.

Referee thinks law violations can be "amicably adjusted."

Referee intercedes—Hitchcock reported as "handling the case"—announcement July 15th resignations to be effective in seventy days.

The referee responsible for system, holds his influence.

Deductions—belong to the public.

## PREFACE.

The responsibility of power, which imposes no higher obligation than a positive, impartial, and unwavering administration of laws, can no more be shifted, than can the consequences of indifferent, or ill directed exercise of authority be avoided; neither can a game of battledoor and shuttlecock square delinquencies in the discharge of official responsibilities. Questions touching administration of laws, no less than questions of law violations, (being matters of Public Concern), are legitimate subjects for discussion, without reference as to the official station affected.

A matter affecting Civil Service investigated at New Orleans about a year ago, is one of these legitimate subjects of discussion, and merits notice, both by reason of the character of law violations involved, and no less on account of its extraordinary course through the Government machinery; the slow progress of which would indicate undue slipping of cogs.

An unvarnished account of this long drawn and uneven contest between right and might (during the course of which a chapter on Civil-Service law enforcement, not at all flattering, or desirable as a monument to the system, has been made up) is due the Public.

An experience covering a period of many months' diligent efforts to cause the application of plain laws, to a plain state of facts, furnishes a story replete with incidents tending to shake confidence in the integrity of Government investigations; disclosing a bent of resistance to the sway of law;—which may be a revelation to the average Citizen unfamiliar with the possible transformations of Civil-Service. The prosecution of a complaint, where the course of the law seems to have been intercepted to the extent of halting proceedings for nearly a year, is worth

eciting, both for the lesson it carries, as well as for the possible healthy effect resulting from a discussion of conditions, tending to paralyze, if not destroy, the force of an institution established for better purposes than a foot-ball for political manipulations;—and this recital is worth reading for its side lights on Government investigations, and no less instructive as a fair illustration of the labor, persistence, and annoyances involved in the onerous undertaking to wring Judgments in cases of Civil-Service offences, when Public-Service and politics wallow in the same trough.

A review of this matter (which has in its ramifications assumed proportions bordering on a Public Scandal) is not of my making, or responsive to my inclinations, as evidenced from the fact that every effort was made to avoid a public over-hauling of a record, which would perhaps show to better advantage on the secluded files of the Civil-Service Commission. The correspondence reproduced herein attests, every recourse was exhausted to draw a decision, which would break the mysterious silence, on a serious complaint pending for Ten months, and it was not until every door was closed (as far as the constituted authorities are concerned) that steps were taken in other directions—a departure which bore effect, and infused life in a case of palpable law violations, which for reasons best known to the powers, remained hung up without action, long enough to have been forgotten.

Having been driven to the extremity of asking for Congressional inquiry as to the silence of the authorities in this case, before there appeared any evidence of action, the whole subject matter loses its original identity, and becomes public property; this being but a redemption of a promise made to the President in a letter dated April 17, 1911, which closed as follows:

“With this letter I will have exhausted all resources for vindication at the hands of the constituted authorities, and if driven from this Forum, on account of a denial of such a hearing as is legitimately due,—the responsibility for such public discussion as may be necessary for a square settlement, must rest where it properly belongs.

I fully appreciate the uneven odds against an individual in a case of this kind, especially when in the plain walks of life, but I hold to the faith that right and the truth overbalance in the end



all other forces, and on the strength of this conviction I have marked my course from the inception of this controversy, with the resolute purpose not to relinquish until the "system" degrading to public service, which I attacked, is destroyed, or at least laid bare to public view. I now submit the matter."

The doors having been closed on this final appeal—a conclusion justified from the fact it had been ignored—not even accorded an acknowledgement of receipt, a discussion out of Court was invited, and since that stage has been reached a full account, shorn of every thing, save the naked facts, as made up by the record, belongs to the public.

In here laying bare the facts connected with a brazen Jugglery of laws—to rid the Government service of an employee, who had violated no regulations, except it be that laid down by political authorities; together with the facts, pointing to wanton and defiant trifling with statutory provisions governing Civil-Service, carried on by Government officials in bold consort with a political organization; I am animated by no spirit of animosity towards the offenders, or disrespect for the authorities. I am here making no charges, nor assailing individuals. I am dealing with a record as made up by due process, and aim solely to call attention to what appears a miscarriage of Justice; and above all, to expose an intolerable system, which needs be destroyed, root and branch, if Civil Service is to be something more than a myth.

The fact that this case (which was permitted to drag through nearly a quarter of a term of the present administration, before noticed) involves more than ordinary infraction of regulations. The fact that it imports something more serious than spasmodic law violations on the responsibilities of individual officials (in that the offences were committed to meet requirements of a political organization,) places it perhaps in a class of its own, and if the light here thrown on the subject leads to an agitation resulting in enactments prescribing such penalties as to render a duplication of the case a dangerous expedient, Civil-Service will have moved a step forward.

In going over this matter I am hardly called upon to point out short-comings; or fix the responsibility for conditions not cal-



culated to excite admiration. No space need be wasted on criminalities or speculations on motives, for the plain truth, and forceful facts, as borne in the record, carry their own indictments, and after absorbing the story of the peculiar and questionable ways of Civil-Service as unfolded (every syllable of which I mean to guard with the same scrupulous care and exact regard for truth as if made before a court of Justice; inviting denial from any quarter, provided such denials are risked under oath), each reader can answer for himself the questions the state of facts suggests—whether Civil-Service has in this instance been squarely administered, and whether or not The President has measured up to the requirements of the occasion?



## CHAPTER I.

The charges of Civil-Service law violations filed with the Civil-Service Commission July 22nd. 1910 bore two counts. One related specifically to an illegal removal from office, the other to general and continued law violations on the part of Federal Officials at New Orleans. The first concerns the individual victim, and incidentally Government employees, whose tenure is unsafe when superiors in authority are permitted to Juggle with Civil-Service in an unlawful pursuit for the scalp of a subordinate. The second concerns not only employees of the Government but the Country at large, as it touches public morals, and affects the standard of public service.

In detailing what these complaints are, and what resulted from an investigation, the record as made up will be adhered to, and I mean to stand corrected by that record in any over-drawn statement. Such facts as may be incidentally referred to (possibly not of record) will be from a personal knowledge, holding myself ready to join in a request from any one concerned, for a Congressional investigation of the whole subject matter to test their verity; provided there be no star-chamber proceedings, and there be assurances the commodity known as "White Wash" which has so frequently and artistically disfigured Government inquisitions, will be eliminated.

The Civil-Service system being the safe guard to efficient public service lies close to the popular mind. The average citizen is familiar with what the term is intended to convey—appreciates the fact the system was instituted for more useful purposes than a mere term for politicians to conjure with, or furnish a theme for Presidential messages; and Public opinion has at no time wavered in its estimate of a system designed for the elevation of the standard of the individual employee of the Government, by absolving him (in his capacity of a public servant) from any obligation, other than that due the Government—honest, intelligent, and faithful service; and the people generally understand, before



the merit system can yield substantial results, or even approach its purpose, something more than mere enactments, and printed regulations (sometimes more conspicuous in cold type than in practical execution) are needed—that the strong arm of rigid law enforcement must stand behind the intent, otherwise its object must fail, and divorcement of politics from public service become a dream. While all of this is generally understood—few perhaps, realize the demoralizing influences working counter. How many (to whom the system at a distance appears as a stone-wall against political invasion) have had opportunity to measure at close range actual results? how many, other than those who in the whirl of politics have been thrown in close contact, know to what extent the shadow rather than the substance is meted by forces controlling? On this point the exhibition of supreme contempt for Civil-Service afforded by New Orleans Federal Officials and their allied political advisers, furnishes a chapter where even the shadow had departed. A review of this instance of paralyzed Civil-Service (or perhaps a more appropriate term would be *crucified*), (through the very agency the system was designed to exclude from influence on public service) supplies the missing link to reduce the “Merit System” to the level of a mockery. The full meaning of the preceeding remarks will appear clearer as the facts connected with the “Louisiana Code” of “Reverence for Civil-Service” develop.

Human experience teaches men become emboldened in the exercise of power in just such degree, as the over-riding of the rights of others are tolerated; and multiplied abuses lead on to crossing forbidden lines—a limit reached when it was discovered that the United States Mint at New Orleans needed an “acting” Chief Clerk instead of a Chief Clerk—an event from which dates a declaration of war on the pernicious system of levying a tax on the salary of Government employees.

Having been Railroaded out of the Government Service (I believe that is the proper term in the absence of proceedings required by law) by a process of Jugglery which would do credit to a master of that profession (which will be better understood after reading complaint), I filed the following protest and charges with the Civil-Service Commission—

NEW ORLEANS, LA., JULY 22nd, 1910.

TO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,  
WASHINGTON,  
D. C.

SIRS:—

I beg to submit for your consideration and action, the matter of my separation from the Mint and Assay service, and invoke the law applicable.

In presenting this complaint, surrounded as it is by collateral incidents not usually attendant upon removals from office, it will be necessary, in order that your body be sufficiently informed, to review facts at some length, and travel somewhat outside the case.

I was appointed Chief-Clerk at the U. S. Mint, New Orleans, March 3rd 1903. A position covered by Civil Service laws, being classified in schedule C. subdivision I. Regulations governing "Mints and Assay Service." In that capacity I served (with a clean record) until July 15th, 1910, on which date I was indefinitely furloughed (which is tantamount to a removal), on a pretext which will not bear the light of an investigation. My separation from the Service which the Superintendent seeks to justify on the plea of a reduction of force and reorganization, I claim was attained in violation of laws instituted for the protection of Government employees against undue use or abuse of the appointive power. I claim my removal was neither justified by conditions, or effected to the end of promoting the Service. That the question of economy set up in defence was a secondary consideration, a mere incident furnishing a pretext for an illegal act, is so palpable as to need but scant review to carry conviction.

Coinage operations at the New Orleans Mint having been suspended, and the Superintendent instructed to reduce the force to conform to the requirements of an Assay office; brought the head of this institution face to face with a situation where a choice between obedience to Civil Service laws, or yielding to personal preferences, or other influences was forced. That the latter consideration governed, is made evident from facts and incidents surrounding.

Some time ago, the Superintendent received instructions from the Mint Bureau to indefinitely furlough the Ass't Coiner, Ass't Melter and Refiner and Ass't Cashier, whose services were no longer required on account of the suspension of the Coinage.

It is reasonable to conclude these specific instructions as to the three positions named, (which under changed conditions had no cause for existence) would have been carried out by an appointing power, unless there were axes to grind.

This situation brought the Superintendent to a conference with the Director of Mint.

Failing in this effort to secure an allotment of coinage (which would have removed the necessity for reducing the force), and being instructed to reduce same to conform to the requirements of an Assay Office, his energies were then directed to plan some line of reduction, agreeable to individual caprices, regardless whether or not it squared with the law.

Therefore, instead of an outright abolishment of position defunct by changed conditions, and furlough of the incumbents, this Superintendent evolved a scheme of re-organization (I believe he so called it) by means of which persons thrown out of employment by inevitable operation of conditions, were provided for at the expense of others who had by efficient service earned equal consideration.

In this process of shifting position, the Ass't Cashier (whose service in that capacity was no longer required) was assigned to the duties of Chief Clerk and Book-keeper combined, at a salary of \$800.00 per annum less than the compensation attached to that position.

My contention as to the legality of this action, or its justification under existing conditions, are fully covered in a protest directed to the ex-Director of Mint, Mr. A. Piatt Andrews, which is here reproduced, and made a part of this appeal.



NEW ORLEANS, LA., JULY 2nd, 1910.

HON. A. PIATT ANDREWS,  
ASS'T SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR:—

In reference to the proposed reduction of force at the New Orleans Mint, as submitted by the Superintendent, for yours approval, I beg to review this recommendation as far as it effect the Chief Clerk; and ask for such relief as the equities of the case may claim. The position of Chief Clerk in the Mint and Assay Office, being a fixed position (so designated by statue) and specifically provided for by appropriation of Congress, would appear to be exempt from being affected by a reduction of force necessitated by a suspension of coinage; it would at least appear to substitute an incumbent to that position for consideration of having the work performed at a lesser salary, or to satisfy individual preference, is unwarranted by law, and violative of regulations governing the conduct of Mint and Assay Service.

Sec:—3504. R. S: provides:—The “Superintendent shall appoint all Assistants, and Clerks, one of whom shall be designated as “Chief Clerk,” etc. Sec:—3502:—R. S. Says: “In case of the temporary absence of the Superintendent the Chief Clerk shall act in his place.” Sec. 3499—R. S. Provides:—“There shall be allowed to the assistants and Clerks of the several Mints such annual salaries as the Director of Mint may, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury determine.”

This latter provision has been complied with, and the late appropriation act: No. 213 H. R. 22643—under heading “Mints and Assay Offices, reads—“New Orleans Mint, for Superintendent, \$3500.00, Chief Clerk and Cashier \$2000.00 each etc.”

Thus it appears the Chief Clerk is a position in the Mint and Assay Service, as at present constituted, fixed by Statue, and for that position a specific appropriation has been made for the fiscal year 1911. This being the case, it would appear an appointing power is not warranted to substitute a Chief Clerk by another employee whose services has been dispensed with in other directions, to the end of reducing expenses. That the recourse for economy in that direction would lie in a reduced compensation

in future appropriations. This position which by statutory provisions carries with it the duties of "Acting Superintendent," (in the absence of the Superintendent) with a fixed salary, specifically provided for, it appears would not be subject to a change incident to a general shift of force, either as to salary or as to the personnel (except for cause).

Passing to the status of this position as affected by Civil Service we find it is covered by regulations governing "Mint and Assay Service." Classified in schedule C. subdivision I.

As to the facts:—

The Superintendent verbally notified me that I would be indefinitely furloughed on the 15th of July (which is equivalent to a removal) and my place would be filled by the former assistant cashier, whose service in that capacity would be dispensed with; he stated he had consolidated the positions of Chief Clerk and Bookkeeper, and by this shift both places would be filled at a salary of \$1200.00 per annum. He volunteered to express his appreciation of the painstaking and efficient service I had rendered, during a tenure of more than seven years, and professed to regret my separation from the service, which he claimed was inevitably forced by reason of the necessity of dismissing the higher salaried employees, to meet required reduction of expenses. (This is mentioned to show no cause was attached to his action).

In view of the foregoing brief recital of this case, I submit:

1st: The position of Chief Clerk being a statutory provision in Mint and Assay Service (as now organized) and the incumbent being designated by law as the Acting Superintendent, in the absence of the official head, he is not subject to removal for the purpose of reducing expenses, or to accommodate another employee dispensed with in other directions.

2nd: The mere fact that it is proposed to designate another to replace the Chief Clerk, is evidence that his services are necessary, and is a self evident fact that there remain functions for such an official.

3rd: If there remain duties for a Chief Clerk, there is no warrant to assign another to his work, or dismiss him except for cause.

4th: When the services of an employee are dispensed with in one capacity (where there may be a surplusage of force), the appointing power is not warranted in removing one occupying a position, for which there may be cause for existence, in order to provide for the one thus thrown out of employment.

5th: To assign another to a position carrying certain duties which are unchangeable, and change its title, is a mere subterfuge, a species of jugglery reprobated by law, violative of both the spirit and letter of Civil Service regulations.

Finally I submit: In this matter the Superintendent has usurped authority and on the whole, I have been unfairly and illegally dealt with. I have occupied this position formore than seven years; during this period I have performed my duties in such a manner as to have escaped a reprimand to this date for any delinquency. Though allowed thirty days' leave annually with pay, I have had one leave in seven years. I have been intrusted with the entire active management of the affairs of this institution, and the accounts rendered for these responsibilities have brought no complaint from any quarter. . The annual settlements and records at the Mint Bureau speak for themselves as to the manner in which the business has been conducted. The Superintendent himself attests that I have rendered efficient service, as evidenced by his monthly reports on the conduct and efficiency of employees under his control, which are on file at Mint Bureau. If I have thus discharged my obligations to the Government, I am at least entitled to my day "In Court." This hearing I ask through this protest.

I am satisfied when you asked for a reduction of force, you were guided by worthy motives, that you wanted a reduction with a sole view of economy, and on legitimate lines, regardless of where the "chips fell," and I feel equally confident you will not countenance any action bearing the earmarks of favoritism or discrimination. I ask that you consider this case in all its bearings; the facts are before you; from them you may draw your own deductions. If their weight show my proposed separation from the service is not warranted by law, or equity, nor justified by conditions here existing, I ask that you cause the Acting Director of Mint to withhold his approval of the Superintendent's recommendation.



Though this position is a small one, a principle is involved of much larger proportions, and my removal without cause would be an unfitting compensation for the conscientious service I have rendered the Government.

I have no influence, political or otherwise, to summon to urge my claim. I am content to rest them on their merits, and rely on your sense of justice and fair play to accord my dues in the premises.

I address you for reason you are the virtual head of the Bureau, as I understand your successor has not yet qualified.

Respectfully submitted,

E. N. CORNAY.

To the foregoing protest the Asst' Secretary of the Treasury, replied as follows (under date of July 5th).

MR. E. N. CORNAY,  
CHIEF CLERK, U. S. MINT,  
N. O.

SIR:—

I have your letter of the second inst. and regret that conditions are such that it has been necessary to approve the furlough of so many employees in the Mint at New Orleans. With the retention of the cashier and the consolidation in other positions it does not seem clear that the position of Chief Clerk is required and while the estimates provide for this position, conditions have so changed that I think we shall be able to drop it for the present. If however, a vacancy should arise to which you are eligible, your length of service would entitle you to consideration, and under the furlough system your eligibility continues for three years from July fifteenth, 1910.

Respectfully,

A. PIATT ANDREW

Ass't Secretary.

In considering the above reply of Mr. Andrews, I call attention to the fact, notwithstanding my protest was overruled, in contradiction of the view expressed by Mr. Andrews, "It does not seem clear the position of Chief Clerk is required" stand the in-

structions later conveyed to the Superintendent by the Acting Director of Mint, Mr. R. E. Preston. That my main contention has been inadvertently sustained by this Official, is shown by a letter directed to the Superintendent from which I will quote later.

Let it be borne in mind that the main point of my protest was the contention: "The Chief Clerk being a position created by statute, and by statute designated as the acting Superintendent in the absence of that Official, stood as a fixture in the organization of Mint and Assay service as at present constituted, and that the services of that official were necessary, and the functions of that position indispensable." In this I am sustained by Mr. R. E. Preston acting Director of Mint, who says in a letter addressed to the Superintendent approving the changes made (letter dated June 30th).

"As under the law (Sec. 3502 R. S.) in case of the temporary absence of the Superintendent the Chief Clerk shall act in this place, it would appear necessary for you to inform this Bureau your choice for Acting Chief Clerk in your absence and I wish you would have this done, upon receipt of this letter." What an admission!

Here is a plain acknowledgment on the part of the Mint Bureau that the functions of a chief clerk are indispensable, yet the occupant of that office is removed by consent of that same authority cognizant of the fact that such removal was effected on pretext that the office had outlived its usefulness. Is any evidence further than the inconsistency, and contradiction here pointed needed to annihilate the weak pretext set up?

By what authority is the title of an official designated by statute to act in the absence of a Superintendent changed; and for what purpose is it proposed to create a new office "Acting Chief Clerk?" if not for the purpose of evading a law which inhibits the removal of a Government employee except for legitimate cause. By what process of reasoning can an Acting official for an office that is claimed to have been abolished for want of a function, find cause for existence? We have known of acting officials during the temporary absence of an incumbent, or pending the filling of a vacancy—but an official to act for one out of existence, pro-

ducing the anomalous title "acting-acting Superintendent" (as the title of chief clerk is Acting Superintendent) belongs to the realms of Civil Service law jugglers.

You may take the position that the point touching the functions of the office in question, so strongly emphasized is not a proper matter for adjudication by your body. This question "per-se" may be out of your jurisdiction, yet surrounding this point are acts having a direct bearing on the merits of the case, as tending to show improper motives on the part of the removing power, which need to be considered in your investigation as to whether there has been a jugglery with the law, a play with names and titles, to reach an illegal end, and as to whether a purpose has been accomplished by indirection, which would by direct route have been intercepted by Civil Service laws.

Therefore in looking into the merits of this case, it is competent for you to consider:—

1st: The Mint Bureau, through the letter quoted, furnishes ample evidence that an acting Superintendent is essential to the conduct of Mint and Assay.

2nd: That fact established, it follows there was no legal or valid reason to alter the title of the office designated for that function.

3rd: Without changing the title of the office the Superintendent was incompetent to change the personnel without cause.

4th: Do such manipulations square with honest motives, or are they resorted to without a purpose?

I ask: Can such vain performances be construed by any stretch of imagination, otherwise than a deliberate (though poorly devised) scheme to evade the law—a crude effort to cover the designs on a position wanted for another, a brazen subterfuge made necessary by reason of the fact that the incumbent (by his record) was immune from legitimate attack.

Finally I submit:— The facts connected with his case, and which are equally applicable to some of the other changes, resulting from this "so-called" reorganization of force, unfold a plan designed to evade plain mandates of law—reflect a deliberate contempt for that authority which forbids the trespass of a Superior Officer on the guaranteed rights of subordinates.



The spirit of indifference to Civil Service provisions, and utter disregard for the rights of subordinates pervading these late changes, coupled to previous exhibitions of a like character, impels me to travel outside of this specific complaint, as well as touch on other matters tending to cumulate evidence that Civil Service in these parts is held with an estimate which could hardly be termed "Reverence"—suggesting that an investigation might disclose a condition which would warrant your commission in serving notice that Government employees have rights to be respected.

I charge that the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, in the reduction just effected, violated Civil Service laws in other than the instance complained of; for the same purpose and for the same reason, I charge further these are not his first offences in that direction.

Notable among similar cases, I cite his action in a force reduction some fifteen months ago, where an ex-soldier, entitled to preference, was furloughed while several others in the same department entitled to no preference were retained. On complaint of the aggrieved party, the Secretary of the Treasury referred the matter back to this Superintendent, quoting the law applicable, and asking why it had not been complied with in that case. In justification of this action, the Superintendent claimed the work required was of a technical character, which the party removed was incompetent to perform. The facts of the matter were this man had worked in this department nearly twenty years, was physically able and otherwise competent to perform the duties required, and further, most of the work in that branch was ordinary laborer's work, such, for instance, as breaking coke for the furnaces (which required the services of one man). But the explanation that this man was incompetent to do the work was sufficient, without further investigation, to deprive him of rights guaranteed by law and executive orders.

This case is referred to merely to illustrate with what ease an appointing power can over-ride Civil Service when permitted to stand as Judge, Jury, and Executioner.

Before closing this complaint I feel that I ought to refer to another character of violations of Civil Service laws, without which

the record would be incomplete, for behind its hideous form hides the hand responsible for more than one lost political job.

I refer to the system of assessing Government officials, and lesser employees, carried on with a boldness and persistence expressive of contempt for the forbidding authority.

I charge that Federal employees in these parts breathe an atmosphere of standing and perpetual violation of Civil Service laws, which takes its source from the political organization, composed mainly of Federal Officials who yield obedience to its edicts.

I charge this organization by its rules has levied a fixed assessment of 10% of the salaries of every head official, as well as other employees whose salaries are within certain limits, and that this tax is considered a binding obligation, even to the extent of demanding notes for unpaid balances. I assert when this levy is not forthcoming, the head of the department where the delinquency lies is not looked on with favor, and the individual failing to comply held in bad odor.

If my personal experience in this line is a fair index of the persistency with which this policy is pursued, the presumption is reasonable that none could evade the requirements and escape the black-list.

When I was appointed to office I was summoned to meet the leader of the organization (whose name I will furnish when required) who informed me if I accepted the position offered, I would be obligated to pay into the organization 10% of my salary. To these terms I agreed; and after complying for eight months, refused further payments. After a lapse of time, I received the following reminder:

NEW ORLEANS, LA. OCT. 26, 1906

MR. E. N. CORNAY,  
CITY.

MY DEAR SIR:

"We note that your account amounts to \$233.34, and as we are in need of funds for both national and State purposes, we request that you send us check for the amount, or for as much as you possibly can, and notes to cover the balance, etc." This

letter is signed by the then Treasurer, whose name as well as the original will be furnished if wanted. To this demand I paid no attention. About a year later a new treasurer (whose name I will furnish when required) made the same verbal demands through a representative sent to my residence, when I again refused to comply. Unyielding to these repeated refusals to give up 10% of my salary, the Boss (first referred to) a few months later asked me what I proposed to do about my assessment, the result of this the last discussion of the proposition was so unsatisfactory that I have since been persona non grata with the powers; and to this bad standing is due in a measure my impotence to ward off the official ax.

I do not charge that the Superintendent made demands on me for contributions, but I do assert the system referred to is notorious, that it is a fixed policy of the organization of which himself and other officials are conspicuous figures, and that to these regulations they are acquiescent.

While I do not charge that I was removed because of my refusal to meet these demands, I do assert, that my failure to do so lost the influences which comes in such good play when "forces are being reduced," and this status of my standing with the powers was a factor of no mean proportion. I assert without fear of rational contradiction, had my 10% record been clean, and had I otherwise been subservient to a degree sufficient to have merited the good will of the ruling forces, the problem of "how to get rid of Chief Clerk" would not have presented itself for solution, nor would the Roster of the New Orleans Mint have been encumbered with the oddity of an "acting chief clerk."

What other fate could have been in store for an employee exhibiting such stubborn resistance to the "Test of fitness" ordained by the system in force? What claim for favors can be set up by one who resists the relentless system, but vaguely described above.

Only a few days ago the Federal officials held a conference to discuss the 10% situation which (according to reports) was not in a healthy condition. At this meeting (I have it from reliable authority) two of the head Officials declined to continue producing, while one enthusiast of the "System" (whose name can



be furnished when wanted) during a discussion of ways and means to reach the subordinates, suggested: "If they don't come up kick them out."

These charges I made with full appreciation of the responsibilities; knowing them to be true, I entertain no fear that any one will risk a denial under oath.

I have in this protest (against a personal wrong) broadened its scope, by exposing a system only indirectly connected with the main question; not with a view of strengthening my individual case, but rather for the benefit to accrue to Government employees generally, if it be the means of causing an investigation.

In this connection, I will say: I do not petition for re-instatement; for several reasons: First, I have felt justified in referring to matters in the course of this complaint, not calculated to promote that relation which needs exist between a chief and his subordinate: Secondly, holding office under the dispensation here dominant is not a very desirable occupation for any one who resents interference with free thought and action. On the whole, it is very probable my late experience will amply satisfy my appetite for office.

While the rights and interests of an employee of the Government individually may be a matter of small concern, too insignificant perhaps of itself to attract attention, yet when encroachment on these touches and affects indirectly the rights and interests of the army of Public Servants, who feel the effects of a tolerance of Civil Service law violations, such matters lose personal identity, involving as they do questions of too much magnitude, to be left in doubt by lax enforcements, or failure on the part of the authorities to hold the appointing Powers to strict obedience of clear provisions of law, or to tolerate manifest jugglery. Otherwise, Civil Service would descend to the level of a "Mock Tribunal," and its laws become fit ornaments for museums.

Respectfully submitted,

E. N. CORNAY.

NOTE: The foregoing complaint was amended in one particular. After the investigation opened I handed a written amendment as follows:—



“ I desire to strike out the clause which reads: ‘I do not petition for reinstatement, etc.’, and substitute therefor as follows: ‘I ask the Commission in the event the facts of the case justify to order my reinstatement.’

This amendment, however, was a vain performance. The “acting Chief Clerk” continued to the end of the fiscal year to fill an office which (according to the Superintendent) had been abolished—representing the superintendent according to the functions of Chief Clerk as provided by statute; and the appropriation for the New Orleans assay office for the fiscal year ending June 30th. 1912 carries an appropriation for a Chief Clerk, as usual, through the recommendation of the Director of Mint; but the former occupant of this “abolished” position remains on the outside looking on; while contemplating the grandeur of a system, which (through rigid and impartial law enforcement) so thoroughly protects employees of the Government in their guaranteed rights, when armed with such valuable assets as the following certificate:

U. S. MINT SERVICE.

**Form No. 970.**

3½x5½.

### FURLOUGH AND RATING CARD.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT NEW ORLEANS, LA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

JULY 15th, 1910.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that Mr. E. N. Cornay, employed in this Mint as Chief Clerk, has this day been discharged from the service, and in accordance with Section 2, Rule 3, Civil Service Regulations, governing appointments, etc., in mints and assay offices, approved February 28, 1908. His rating is as follows:  
Workmanship, Excellent;                      Conduct—Excellent.

HUGH S. SUTHON,  
Superintendent.

Prior to investigation had, I attacked the “economical adjustment” plan in the following open letter addressed to the Hon. A. Piatt Andrews, who aided in the structure.

Since the statement of facts borne therein have never been denied or their import questioned, is sufficient evidence that they are true.

If true, they must stand in corroboration of the assertion made in my complaint to the effect, "the pretence of economy set up in defence of my illegal removal would not bear the light of investigation."

These unvarnished facts, which are but a fair sample of these officials' ideas of "Economy", will bear close reading, as they furnish an insight of what "Economy" means when calculated as a lever to keep favorites on the pay-rolls on one hand, and on the other, when applied as a "White Wash" for illegal acts.

It might be observed that Mr. Andrews, who evidenced such a rage for economy, was (in the light of recent history) at that time on the Government's pay-rolls in two capacities. This is the same Mr. Andrews who was lately caught drawing a salary of \$5000.00 per annum as assistant secretary of the Treasury and \$3000.00 as special assistant to the currency commission. In justice to him it can be said whatever might be his proclivities for dual-office holding, he at least possesses the quality of making some restitution for his own overdrawn salaries—even though at the expense of subordinates, and at the cost of approving the altering of appropriations of congress, and changing other statutes.

NEW ORLEANS, AUG. 6, 1910.

HON. A. PIATT ANDREWS, ASST. SECT. OF THE TREAS.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR:—

During your short term as director of the Mint you earned quite a reputation for economy; and since you have directed the affairs of the Mint Bureau in your latter capacity of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, you have evidenced an ambition to improve on that record.

However, in your zeal to retrench and stop leaks, you have overlooked some things, which (if taken into account) might add very materially to the savings you have effected by cuts in sala-

ries and reduction of force in the various departments under your supervision.

It seems in your crusade of reforms in expenditures no small items have escaped your attention, from the merging of two or three positions into one, to the cut of forty cents per diem on the wage of an employee.

All of these small affairs you have diligently attended to and readily approved when submitted by under officials, but for some reason not plain, you have overlooked some of the broader avenues of reforms in that direction, which if attended to with the diligence applied to smaller items would add substantial value to your assets as an economizer.

These reflections suggest a few questions touching your system of economy, which are not quite clear to the average mind.

You recently approved the action of the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint, in his economical efforts, though his work evidenced a rather obscure vision of a large and consequential item burdening the payrolls of that institution.

When the Superintendent submitted for your approval the plan of reduction devised (in response to your instructions to re-adjust the force to conform to the requirements of an assay office) it is strange in scanning the list of changes it did not occur to you, that he had in his haste overlooked a high salaried official, whose title does not very well fit an assay office; a rather extravagant adjunct, when the volume of work to be performed is considered.

When you approved a change in the personnel of the office of Chief Clerk on the pretext of economy (even in defiance of Civil Service laws) effecting a saving of \$800.00 per annum, and when you approved a reduction of the salary of the assistant assayer (notwithstanding his compensation was fixed and specifically appropriated for) effecting a saving of \$700.00 per annum, and when you further approved a reduction of the wages of the foreman of the assayers laboratory from \$4.25 per diem to \$3.85 per diem, effecting a saving of about \$100.00 per annum, or a total saving of sixteen hundred dollars per annum on these items; why did it not occur to you that the assay office at New Orleans, as operated for the past fifteen months, remained burdened with a



Coiner at a salary of \$2500.00 per annum, overbalancing these items by nearly a thousand dollars a year?

In view of the rather queer code of economy applied to these late reforms at the New Orleans Mint is it pertinent to ask: Why is the Coiner, ( a position wiped out by operation of late changes) who has already been allowed to draw a salary of \$2500.00 per annum since April 1909 (date of suspension of coinage) with absolutely no functions more onerous than signing the pay-rolls, further favored and allowed to continue his sleep in the lap of official luxury?

Further, why is your policy of economy not carried out to its logical end? Since you have reduced the New Orleans Mint to the grade of an assay office, effected by stoppage of coinage, why not apply the complement of officials allotted to the several other like institutions under your control? Why not qualify the assayer now incumbent as assayer in charge (as in other assay offices), thereby effecting a further saving of \$3500.00 per annum, the cost of a Superintendent, whose functions are so laborious as to allow time to devote to several other occupations, and manage to discharge his obligations to the government by applying one hour three or four days a week (sometimes less) to the duties of his office? Have you stopped to figure that these two salaries foot up \$6000.00—or four times as much as the three small items referred to?

It can hardly be conjectured that you have halted here in your economical policy, because these officials are constituted by statute, since it has been found feasible to depose a chief clerk covered by the same provision. Nor should the fact that they are Presidential appointees block your way to economy, for it is a very simple proposition to request the President to ask for the resignation of officials defunct (at least as to the coiner) by operation of changed conditions.

These little inconsistencies are, to say the least a little puzzling, and a final analysis of your policy of retrenchment in expenditure (which does not square with the code of genuine economy) invites the conclusion that your ideas of official extravagance are confined to the ranks of subordinates of the second degree.

Were such a one-sided policy applied in quarters where there were militant political forces to reckon with, or where there were political assets to be considered, it might be conjectured that our system was mixed a little with politics, but since party organization in these parts is confined mainly to the gathering of delegates to national conventions (a job which can be attended to by other Federal officials) it would be unreasonable to suspect you would permit such a trifling consideration to halt you in your designs to curtail expenditures by weeding out sinecures.

Your work as to minor details has been well performed. It now only remains for you to apply equal energy to the more important items which will not only swell your savings to large proportions but also serve to clear up some seeming inconsistencies, and on the whole, keep the record straight.

Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY.

NOTE: About two months after this discussion on economy, the resignation of the Coiner referred to was called for; but not until he had drawn three months' pay as Coiner for an institution reorganized on the basis of an Assay Office and dismantled as a Mint.

It cannot be urged in justification that the Coiner had settlements to make with the Government, as Coinage was suspended April 1909, and at the annual settlement of the Mint June 30th. 1909—all metal in his possession was turned over to the Superintendent, from which date he had no responsibility, nor a cent to account for.

It is in order to observe: The Coiner unlike the Chief-Clerk could boast of a clean 10% record.

It was he who once drew the deadly parallel on that score by a remark to the effect; that he paid his pro-rata promptly; while the Chief Clerk did not contribute a copper; and therefore the latter was entitled to no consideration.

The foregoing complaint, supplemented by a specific sworn affidavit, resulted in an investigation begun in the early days of September, 1910.

After furnishing my own testimony and list of witnesses, the following suggestion was offered the examiner.

MR. JOHN MCILHENNY  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEAR SIR:—

In the event the list of witnesses furnished you is not sufficient for your purpose, I suggest you might call for the books of the Republican Organization, where you will likely find a full list of all those who have paid assessments, and the amounts paid. The fact that my account was rendered in dollars and cents, is evidence that books are kept, for it is hardly presumable that accounts were kept for my special benefit.

During the course of this investigation (covering a period of several weeks) a voluminous file was gathered; the full extent of which remains a secret of the authorities at Washington, together with their opinion regarding the acts of Public Officials as disclosed by the evidence borne in that record.

However, the absence of the "Official record" is no bar to an intelligent retrospect of the case, in all its material bearings; as the writer is qualified to undertake such a review as "A witness from the stand." My own deposition, coupled to a knowledge of the main evidence adduced (information acquired from the witnesses themselves prior to filing charges), is sufficient equipment to comment on facts established, holding myself amenable to correction by the files now in the hands of the authorities, which more than bear out every charge.

I charged "Federal employees in these parts breathe an atmosphere of standing and perpetual violations of Civil Service laws". That charge is sustained by testimony covering my own experience beginning in February 1903, and the last victim of the system (who appeared as a witness) went through the grill during the latter part of August 1910 (in the very shadow of this investigation) and at least three other witnesses, whose experience date during the years 1908-9, filled in the intervening gap; an array clearly establishing "Standing and perpetual violations", viz: from February 1903 to August 1910 the latest offence (as



far as the record goes) being about a month after these charges were made.

I qualified the charge that 10% was levied on Government employees, by drawing the line at those whose "salaries are within certain limits" (meaning somewhere in the \$1,800 grade). In this I was in error: the mark was under-shot, for it developed later through witnesses, there was hardly a limit, neither as to size of salary, nor sex, one witness at least being in the sixty-five dollar per month grade, and at least one witness, a female clerk; facts which were not in mind at the time the charges were made. Hence in this particular more was proved than charged.

As to the allegation: "This tax is considered a binding obligation even to the extent of demanding notes for the unpaid balances." I call on a letter filed with the Civil Service Commission, directed to me by the Treasurer of the Republican Organization, rendering an account of my indebtedness in Dollars and Cents, and asking for my note to cover such balance as I might be unable to liquidate at once—the letter referred to having been a subject of considerable correspondence; fully exhibited by various letters to the Commission together with their replies, which will appear further along.

That branch of the complaint relating to an illegal removal from office, was at once swallowed up by the more aggravated charges; no further investigation of which was had (as far as my knowledge goes) than a question put by the Commissioner, as to whether I could prove my removal from office was due to a refusal to contribute a percentage of my salary. Not being in the business of performing miracles (a faculty necessary to prove intent) this question was promptly replied to in the negative. But whether or not I could do the impossible, the facts of the case as set forth in the complaint stand uncontradicted, and are unassailable. If they do not constitute an illegal removal, then none can be safe in office, and the system purporting to afford protection resembles a Joke. If the assessment system as developed on trial; coupled to my stubborn resistance to its requirements (as in evidence) is not suggestive, then Courts of Justice have or ages erred in entertaining circumstantial evidence; and Judges have committed countless wrongs, when they have permitted

men to be convicted in the absence of positive proofs of motive. Further space need not be taken upon such a small matter as the rights of an individual. Passing to something more far-reaching, and of greater public concern, attention is called to developments bearing on the serious charges.

My own deposition shows, the Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee (who is the recognized referee of the administration, and dispenser of patronage), when tendering a position in the Government service, informed me I would be required to pay to the organization 10% of my salary, conditions to which I assented and complied with for about seven months. After having paid one hundred and fifteen dollars to the Treasurer (receipt for one hundred dollars of which was filed with the Commission, another receipt for fifteen dollars having been mislaid), I became delinquent. In due course a statement was rendered to me showing amount due, and calling for cash, or its equivalent in notes. The demand referred to, signed by the Treasurer of the organization (the original of which is in the hands of the Civil Service Commission), read as follows:

NEW ORLEANS, LA., OCT. 25th. 1906.

MR. E. N. CORNAY.

MY DEAR SIR:—

“We note that your account amounts to \$233.34, and as we are in need of funds for both National and State purposes, we request that you send us check for the amount, or for as much as you possibly can,—and notes to cover the balance.” (The above is a verbatim extract of the original which was copied at time charges were made). The balance of this letter, which I quote from memory (as I have been unable to get the original from the Commission after four requests for its return), continues substantially as follows:—

“We have had to send considerable amounts to carry the doubtful districts of the North. Good friends of ours have advanced this money—refund for which we must make.” (And other mention, not recalled). If the Treasurer concerned finds any errors in the latter portion quoted from memory it is his privilege to correct same by the original, now in the Custody of



the Commission, as stated. To this demand no attention was paid; about a year later, the identical demand was made verbally, by a representative of the Treasurer who succeeded the author of the letter quoted. This call was at my residence I dismissed the matter by informing this agent that the one hundred and fifteen dollars I had paid in were the last I intended to pay. Several months after this positive refusal I was accosted by the referee first mentioned (The Party Boss), who stated he was informed I was not keeping up my dues as agreed; and wanted to know what I proposed to do about it; on which occasion the answer to the Treasurer's agent was repeated in language more emphatic than polite, with the further statement that I was unable to pay the tax, and besides had in the past contributed more than my share to the support of the Party. The question is who reported my delinquency? and why should the leader be advised? I believe, it is in evidence, an applicant for clerkship, (eligible from the Civil Service list) applied to the head of a Department where a vacancy existed, for a position. He was sent to the Treasurer of the organization (who was acting as referee) for examination, being plainly informed the proper O. K. was required. This applicant reported as instructed, and there a surrender of 10% of the salary attached to this position was laid down as a condition and when the applicant demurred, and informed his examiner that he was on the Civil Service list, and was under the impression the laws inhibited such demands, he was advised Civil Service did not amount to a row of pins—that this thing was done all over the country, and if he wanted a job the sooner this was understood the better. He was further questioned as to whether or not he was paying his assessments on the position then occupied (the applicant then holding a position in another department) and to a negative answer this referee said that the head of the department he was serving under was not doing his duty (as it was the duty of those who held office, to supply the finances for the organization), and they would see that in the future there would be no more free rides.

I believe it is further in evidence that this same official, referred later several other applicants on the Civil Service list to this same referee (who had since the first case mentioned been appointed to



a Presidential Office, but who continued his duty as examiner of the qualification of applicants). These later subjects relate substantially the same experience. I believe it is in evidence this official besides sending all applicants for position in his department to the authority empowered to O. K. applications, asked a female employee of his office (who had been allowed an increase of one hundred Dollars in her salary), to donate the amount of this advanced allowance to the fund. I believe it is also in evidence at a conference of office holders, called to discuss the 10% situation as affecting delinquents on which occasion two of the head officials declined to continue a surrender of 10% of their salaries. A high official (who might have thought he was setting a value on old rags, instead of placing an estimate on Civil Service laws) displayed his reverential respect for the system by proclaiming his policy to be—"To kick them out if they don't come up."

To say nothing of Jugglery with Civil Service lists, which may or may not swell the record, the foregoing brief recitals, substantially the facts as disclosed on inquiry had by the Civil Service Commission, are (though but a fragment of the record) sufficient to convey a fair idea of the character of a case which appears to have puzzled the authorities; no less are they ample to convince; whatever may be the qualification of these officials, to raise campaign funds, or gather delegates to National Conventions, their estimate of Civil Service is not such as to lend inspiration to the cause.

NOTE: The identity of individuals either by name or official designation is omitted, for reason such is unnecessary for the purpose of this publication, which is aimed at a system, individual actions being mere incidents. Suffice it that these occurrences are properly identified in the record.

## CHAPTER II.

Leaving behind the first chapter, which deals with violation of laws, the next search belongs to the findings, the verdict of authorities to whom is committed the preservation of the Civil Service integrity. On the heels of the close of this investigation, the boast was freely bandied to the effect the affair would "wind up in smoke." However unauthorized such predictions may have been, and no doubt they were but the promptings of irresponsible persons hardly capable to grasp a situation too serious for such a painless ending, yet the "wind-up" was at least by painfully slow stages, and at the cost of considerable energy, as evidenced by the following correspondence.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., OCT. 6th, 1910.

TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR:

At the investigation of charges of Civil Service violations had at New Orleans several months ago, I filed a letter directed to me by the Treasurer of the Republican Organization making demands on me for my notes to cover unpaid balances due on account of an assessment on my salary as an employee of the Government. I would thank you to return this letter.

Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. OCTOBER 17, 1910.

MR. E. N. CORNAY,  
1518 TERPSICHORE STREET,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

SIR:

In reply to your letter of October 6th, requesting the return of a letter signed by the Treasurer of the Republican Organizations

which you furnished the Commission in connection with its recent investigation at New Orleans, you are informed that the investigation has not been terminated. The Commission will be pleased to return the letter you refer to as soon as final action shall have been taken in the matter, but in the meantime would like to retain the letter as part of the evidence in the case.

By direction of the Commission:

Very respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN A. McILHENNY,  
Acting President.

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LOUISA, P. O. JAN. 12th, 1911.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENTLEMEN:

In the matter of charges of violations of Civil Service laws filed with your Commission last July, during the investigation of which I filed a letter directed to me making demands for assessment on my salary as a Government employee, I would again ask the return of the document. Some several months ago, I requested the return of same and received a reply signed by Mr. McIlhenny stating the letter would be returned when the case was closed. Nearly six months having elapsed since the evidence in this case has been placed before your commission, with no decision, suggests you do not attach much importance to such small irregularities as "Holding up Government employees" for political purposes. I feel that I am entitled to my personal property placed in your custody, if not a Judgment.

Please return the letter referred to.

Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. JANUARY 23, 1911.

MR. E. N. CORNAY,  
LOUISA P. O. LOUISIANA.

SIR:

The Commission is in receipt of your letter of January 12th, 1911, in which you request that the letter making demands upon



you for political assessments, which you filed with the Civil Service Commission last July, be returned to you.

In reply, you are advised that this letter will be returned to you after the New Orleans case has been closed.

By direction of the Commission:

Very respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN C. BLACK,

President.

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NEW ORLEANS, LA. MARCH 8th, 1911.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIRS:

Referring to charges lodged against Federal Officials at New Orleans, investigation of which was had six months ago without returns, I have to make this, a third, request for the return of a letter addressed to the undersigned, making demands for past due assessment on my salary. Your letter of Jan. 23rd, in reply to a second request, stated the document in question would be returned as soon as the case was closed. As it appears to me time sufficient has elapsed to meet the ends of a careful and matured decision, I ask for Judgment in this matter, and the return of the letter mentioned.

Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY.

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NEW ORLEANS MARCH 14th, 1911.

TO THE PRESIDENT,

WHITE HOUSE,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR:

The undersigned, who has paid the penalty for refusing to yield obedience to an organized system of "percentage rake off" levied on the salaries of Government employees—a dispensation maintained and enforced by High Federal Officials—begs leave to call your attention to a complaint filed with the Civil Service

Commission, yet pending after a lapse of seven months; and asks for such action as is warranted by the facts of the case.

On the 22nd of July, 1910, I filed complaint with the Civil Service Commission protesting against the illegal action of the Superintendent of the Mint at New Orleans, in separating me from the service; to which I coupled charges of gross violations of Civil Service laws on the part of Federal Officials, responsible for a system of assessment of Government employees, degrading to public service; rebelling against which I believe was a contributory cause of my being relieved from duty.

These charges were investigated six months ago, but it appears that the records slumber in some Department of the Government, while the Rough Riders over Civil Service laws continue to enjoy immunity from the consequences of their acts—and an illegal removal from office remains unremedied.

I respectfully submit a judgment in this matter is long past due. The facts (as disclosed in the investigation had) call for action, and further delay is unreasonable, and not calculated to promote the ends of fair-play and justice, nor inspire confidence in the integrity of those laws designed as the bulwark of clean and efficient Public Service. I therefore ask: If this case has not yet been placed before you, that the record be sent for, and judgment rendered.

If the record as made up show violations of laws, I ask for a stern application of the penalties. If there be no law to cover the acts shown to have been committed, I ask that this fact be made public, together with the evidence from which such conclusions are reached.

I desire to say; my actions in the prosecution of this matter is not inspired by a Partisan spirit, desirous of casting reflections on Political opponents, for I have been a life long Republican, one who has faced uneven odds, in pursuit of my political faith in days when some of those now enjoying power and emoluments from a Republican Administration were conspicuous figures among the opponents of Republicanism in these parts.

My offending has been in revolting against a system repugnant to one who has for years been a voluntary and liberal contributor, free from specific exactions—for refusing to comply with regula-

tions of the "Office Holders" code, I paid an undue penalty. I now invoke an equal application of the penalties prescribed by the Civil Service laws.

Respectfully submitted,

E. N. CORNAY.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. MARCH 11th, 1911.

MR. EMILE N. CORNAY,

1518 TERPSICHOE STREET,

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

SIR:

Your letter of March 8th to the Commission is received, and noted. A vast number of other affairs of importance have compelled the attention of the Commission, in addition to the attention that it has paid to your own application and earnest appeal.

The Commission therefore hopes that you will not be seriously inconvenienced by its longer retaining your letter. Of the conclusion that may be reached in your case you will probably soon be advised.

By direction of the Commission:

Very respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN L. BLACK,  
President.

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NEW ORLEANS, LA. APRIL 15th, 1911.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIRS:

I trust your commission will not consider I am unduly persistent in again addressing you regarding the Civil Service investigation had at New Orleans by Mr. McIlhenney about eight months ago. Your letter dated March 11th (in reply to the third communication in reference to this case from me) advised that a conclusion would be reached at an early date.

Five weeks having passed with no results, and with no means of figuring (judging from past experience) as to when to expect a settlement of the matter, which to me at least is of some moment,



I must again ask for a judgment and a return of the documentary evidence which I placed in your hands.

In view of the fact this case does not appear to involve any intricate questions of law, and is certainly not confusing as to facts; I am at a loss to understand why decision has not been rendered.

It is hardly presumable that this unaccountable delay is due to deficiency in proof, for the reason that the records bear documentary evidence sufficient to carry conviction as to the verity of the charges, should all oral testimony be discredited and eliminated. Besides, I have every reason to conclude Mr. McIllhenney gathered proofs sufficient to satisfy requirements, from the fact that evidence available was not called for. For instance: A former Federal Official at New Orleans, whose name I handed in with the statement, that witness would testify to various caucuses held by Federal Officials in which he participated, when ways and means to enforce the 10% assessment levied on Government employees as well as other phases of the "System" were discussed, was not called upon. Further from the fact Mr. McIllhenney did not deem it necessary to call for the books of the "Office-holding Assessment Concern," from which I suggested (in the event the list of witnesses furnished by me were insufficient for his purpose) he would more than likely be able to secure a complete list of all victims, ascertain the amount each was taxed, amounts due and "ripe for notes;" added to my impression that the records as made up bore sufficient evidence to close the case; my own opinion being, if the case as closed was too weak, your tribunal is almost too exacting to be convinced. The idea of calling for these books suggested itself from the fact that letters addressed to myself and the Cashier at the U. S. Mint demanding our notes in settlement of balances due, and rendering our accounts in dollars and cents, evidenced that books were kept, as it is hardly presumable that only two employees were singled out to be held to strict account for a 10% rake off.

Therefore, if the conclusion that evidence was left behind on account of not being needed is justifiable; if there remains no question as to the fact that high officials, and bosses of these officials, had laid down as a condition of appointment to office of a surrender of 10% of the applicant's salary, and had sought

to enforce these terms by demanding notes for unpaid balances; if it be a fact that the Superintendent of the U. S. Mint at New Orleans did remove an employee under Civil Service who had violated no law or regulation (except it be the law laid down by the office holding cabal relative to the 10% exaction) and your commission is unable after eight months deliberation to determine whether there is any law applicable to this state of affairs, then indeed the law is at most too intricate and complicated effectively to protect Government employees or to promote the efficiency and integrity of public service, hence it badly needs remodeling and simplification.

It certainly strikes the average mind that eight months is a long time to determine whether or not subordinate employees have rights which the superiors in authority are bound to respect; or in plainer terms, whether Civil Service is a reality or a joke. It is a long time to decide whether High government officials, who lend themselves to the promotion of a "System" of salary assessment, reducing Government employees to the level of vassals, are beyond the pale of the law.

If those arraigned by these charges stand too high to be amenable to law, or if their acts violated no law, it is high time that fact be known; for the boast has been freely and frequently made that this investigation would amount to nothing. In fact, I believe the record of this case bears the deposition of an applicant for a position, who was on the Civil Service list, which shows that he was referred to a high Official in a different department from the one in which his application was filed, to answer questions testing his qualifications, (which means under the dispensation obtaining, "agreeable" to the 10% requirements). I believe it is in evidence when this applicant reminded his questioner of the fact that he was on the Civil Service list, and was under the impression that Civil Service laws inhibited such demands, he was told by his questioner that Civil Service "did not amount to a row of pins;" that this thing was done all over the country, and the sooner he understood the situation, the better for his own interests.

When Civil Service laws are held in such "Reverence" (an estimate shared quite generally in Officialdom in these parts, judg-



ing from the wholesale violations), it was not astonishing to hear it predicted that this investigation, like other similar affairs, would wind up in smoke. However, in this instance, it is my firm purpose to leave nothing undone to see that the smoke at least is a respectable one in size; for I feel that I have sustained sufficient damage by having been brazenly juggled out of the Government service, for no offense other than rebelling against odious system, without the additional penalty of being placed in the light of having entered false or frivolous charges.

It may be that in this communication I have expressed myself a trifle strongly, yet I feel I am justified by the scant satisfaction accorded. I feel that the facts and equities of this case called for such attention as would have resulted in some termination months ago, and the time has come for unreserved discussion.

Rights granted me by laws instituted for the protection of Government employees, have been ridden over rough shod by an official who abused authority, and juggled with Civil Service laws to attain his end. The intrigues resorted to, need not be here repeated, as they are fully set forth in my complaint, and stand uncontroverted; yet I cannot find out, after a wait of eight months, whether or not this official is liscensed to gratify his personal predilections at the expense of a subordinate; nor can I find out, after this long wait, whether high officials of the government, who (in obedience to the requirements of a political organization) maintained a systematic levy on the salaries of public servants, violated any law, or if so, whether any penalty is due, or whether the "System" (primarily responsible for my separation from the service) is to be legalized by a finding of "no law to cover."

I submit: A continued delay is a mere trifling with a serious question, indefensible from any stand-point, and not calculated to further the ends of justice, or inspire confidence and respect for the efficiency of Civil Service. I have gone into this matter at some length for the reason I mean this communication to close this case on my part, in so far as the Civil Service Commission is concerned.

Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY.



NEW ORLEANS, LA., APRIL 17, 1911.

TO THE PRESIDENT,  
WHITE HOUSE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR:

For your information, I enclose communication directed to the Civil Service Commission, which is self explanatory.

I had the honor of addressing you on the same subject some six weeks ago, and regret to say have received no further acknowledgment than a registry receipt return.

Perhaps in the stress of more pressing affairs, you have not had time to give the case attention; if so, I trust you will at an early date read the complaint and charges submitted, and review the record as made upon the investigation had by the Civil Service Commission.

I have made diligent efforts, (against some odds) to get redress for an invasion of my rights as an employee of the Government. In the course of this combat matters of some public concern, so closely associated with the main complaint as to have been inseparable, have been brought so conspicuously to the front, that individuality has lost identity, and the case assumes the character of a public question, affecting as it does the vast army of public servants, who are guaranteed by law immunity from illegitimate exactions.

Believing that in matters of this character the ends of justice are best served by orderly procedure, I have avoided any public discussion, or the slightest reference to the case outside of "Court," for I have regarded my part, as a mere instrument lending assistance to a search for a true state of affairs, rather than prosecutor; hence when this investigation was opened I took it for granted it meant such action as the facts developed would warrant; regardless of any consideration which might invite quibbles or delays.

In this estimate I have been disappointed. I looked for results; for something more definite than a silence which puts me in the light of having brought frivolous charges (for no other conclusion could be drawn from the prolonged delay in rendering a decision) a reflection not justified by the facts adduced on in-

vestigation, and which I am not inclined to allow to stand without inquiry as to its meaning.

Having discharged in a conscientious manner what I considered my obligations to the Government and the public—in a matter reaching beyond personal concern—I feel substantial satisfaction is due, and I am not disposed to accept a silent termination of the case without protest.

With this letter I will have exhausted all resources for vindication at the hands of the constituted authorities, and if driven from this Forum, on account of a denial of such hearing as is legitimately due—the responsibility for such public discussion as may be necessary for square settlement, must rest where it properly belongs.

I fully appreciate the uneven odds against an individual in a case of this kind, especially when in the plain walks of life, but I hold to the faith that Right and the Truth overbalances in the end all other forces, and on the strength of this conviction I have marked my course from the inception of this controversy, with the resolute purpose not to relinquish until the “system” degrading to public service, which I attacked, is destroyed, or at least laid bare to the public view. I now submit the matter.

Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY.

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Two weeks having passed with no acknowledgment of receipt of this last letter to the President indicated clearly that communications on that subject were not welcome; and I abandoned all ideas of inducing action in the matter; however concluded to wait a while longer for developments before taking further steps—In the meantime my attention was attracted to the following remarks of Congressman Cullop, which bore such close resemblance to the Louisiana case as to arouse suspicion—and I addressed the Congressman on the subject—This being my first reference to the case, outside of the constituted authorities.—(letter reproduced).

(From Times-Democrat.)

## PERNICIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITY CHARGED TO POSTMASTER GENERAL.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—Representative Cullop of Indiana, a Democrat, in a speech to-day in the House vigorously assailed Postmaster-General Hitchcock and the Post Office Department for “pernicious activity” in politics.

“The Post Office Department is the greatest political machine ever constructed in this or any other country,” said Mr. Cullop, “and it is openly administered as a political organization.”

Too much time devoted by the head of the Post Office Department to political affairs, and too little to business, were declared by Mr. Cullop to be responsible for the annual deficit in the operation of the department. He said the people should know whether any of the 272,000 postmasters or employees had been discharged or reduced in rank for failure to perform political duties or to contribute to campaign funds, or whether employees are regularly assessed for campaign purposes and are punished if they do not comply.

He declared the appointive power lodged with the President is greater than that enjoyed by any foreign monarch. “The power vested in the President is almost unlimited,” he said. “No man is wise enough or good enough or great enough to be entrusted with such power. It is the experience of the world that men clothed with such power become impatient of restraint.”

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NEW ORLEANS, LA. MAY 1st, 1911.

CONGRESSMAN CULLOP,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SIR:—

My attention was drawn to your remarks of April 28th., relative to the Postmaster-General's political machine and assessment system. I beg to refer you to a rather interesting chapter on this subject; which may be of some assistance in a probe of the subject matter.

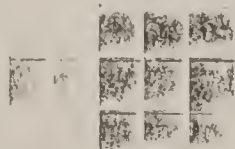


If you call on the Civil Service Commission and ask for the record of an investigation had at New Orleans during the month of September, 1910, In Re: Charges of an "organized system of Assessment of Government Employees," you may get some light on the subject, and learn something of "The way they do it in Louisiana." While you are examining this record, you will do me a favor by inquiring why this Commission has been unable, or unwilling after nine months deliberation, to determine whether or not conditions shown (by competent testimony) to exist, are in violation of any law. Should you draw this plain answer to a plain question, an end to which I have spent considerable energy for the past eight months without results, will be reached.

In this connection, I refer you to Congressman Goodwin, Chairman of Committee on Reforms in Civil Service, to whom I lately forwarded copies of some correspondence on this subject. From these you can gather an idea of the nature of the complaints I have lodged—the speedy consideration accorded, and my vain efforts to get action. Having patiently waited for nine months for a vindication of the law, without results, or apparent prospect of a settlement at the hands of the constituted authorities; it is my purpose to close the matter, and force the issue as to whether or not the questions involved in my charges are of sufficient public concern to claim such attention from the Civil Service Commission, as to result in at least a decision of some kind. The indifference of the authorities in this matter invites the conclusion that Civil Service as here administered is too indifferent—a counterfeit guarantee.

The subject is a live one, and should be kept to the fore until the question is settled as to which system is to assume mastery—"The Spoils," or "The Merit." The two cannot co-exist, but the former outright is preferable to half enforcement.

I am at your command in any earnest effort to lay bare to public view the true situation.



Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY.

About a week after my letter to Congressman Cullop—I received the following from the Civil Service Commission in

answer to letters written [nearly a month previous—this letter speaks of the case of the Post-Master I inquired about although—I made no such inquiry—and had never made such a mention in any of my communications;—but I did inquire about an opinion long past due as to the legality of my removal from office—which I am to this date waiting for—

MAY 8th, 1911

MR. EMILE N. CORNAY,  
303 PERRIN BUILDING,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

SIR:

The Commission is in receipt of your letter of April 15, 1911, requesting that you be informed of the decision in the case of the Postmaster and other Federal officials and employees in New Orleans, Louisiana, and that the documentary evidence, which you filed with the Commission, be returned to you.

In reply you are advised that the document will be returned to you after the case has been decided.

Receipt is also acknowledged of two letters from you to the President dated April 17th and 18, 1911, which were transmitted to the Commission from the White House. There is returned herewith your clipping from the Directory of the Parish of St. Mary, Louisiana, which you desired to be returned to you.

By direction of the Commission:

Very respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN A. BLACK,  
President.

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Thirty days after my last communication to the authorities—no signs of a movement in the case being apparent I felt justified in looking in other directions to end a tiresome and very unsatisfactory situation—Accordingly I forwarded to the Congressman H. Garland Durprey the following communication to be handed to the Committee on Reform in Civil-Service; and two days later, opened discussion of the case through the Press—

NEW ORLEANS, LA. MAY 18th, 1911.

HON. HANNIBAL L. GOODWIN,

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON REFORM IN CIVIL SERVICE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR:

I submit for your consideration and action a matter affecting Civil Service, which appears to be a proper subject for inquiry by your Committee.

The attached record, (which explains itself) points to an indifference on the part of the authorities to a serious complaint tantamount to a denial of a hearing, as (for reasons best known to them) proceedings in this matter have halted with an investigation had over eight months ago. The prolonged silence of the authorities in this case, contrasted with the speedy decision rendered in the matter of charges lately lodged by employees of the Postal Department, at New Orleans; when the head officials were exonerated and a dismissal of subordinates making the complaints was recommended, on the grounds the charges were frivolous and not sustained, invites an unfavorable impression of government investigations.

It appears a trifle odd that a case where the charges are said to be "frivolous and not sustained" involving the dismissal of a score of subordinate employees of the Government can be tried and adjudicated within three or four weeks, while in another case involving superiors in authority, where the charges are not frivolous and where they are sustained (a conclusion from which there can be no escape), no decision can be reached after a lapse of nine months.

While it is true these investigations were had by different departments, they are none the less both Government inquiries, and the promptness with which one is dispatched compared to the seeming endless drag of the other does not appeal as a square administration of the laws, suggesting, that "circumstances alter cases" in matters of this kind; relative to which an inquiry is pertinent. The correspondence herewith submitted shows that I have made diligent but ineffectual efforts to close this case. The record is in the hands of the Commission; it tells its own story. I am no longer dealing with questions of charges; I am asking that



the authorities apply the law to the facts as before them, and decide whether or not any penalties are due. The Post-master-General has shown us after a deliberation of a few weeks, how they deal with "frivolous and unsustained" charges—nine months should be ample time to hear from "serious and substantiated charges.

I leave this matter with your committee.

Respectfully,

E. N. CORNAY..

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## FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS.

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NEW ORLEANS, LA., MAY 20, 1911.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES-DEMOCRAT:

Your recent editorials, touching Federal investigations have the right ring, and are timely discussions of a subject needing the attention of the press. Recent investigations indicate something "out of joint," both as to the methods of government inquiries, as well as the manner of administering laws.

In connection with the late inquiry in charges lodged by clerks of the post office department, the (merits of which I know nothing, and they are immaterial for the purpose of this discussion), it is pertinent to inquire: What forces are in action when a decision in what is termed a "frivolous case" can be reached in short order, while a case which is not frivolous, is allowed an unlimited period of slumber, from which there seems to be no awakening?

The prolonged silence of the authorities in the matter of charges of gross violation of civil service laws, implicating high Federal officials and others guiding the local Republican organization, investigation of which was had nine months ago (when proceedings halted for reasons best known to the authorities), contrasted with the speedy decision rendered in the matter of the charges of postal clerks (where the head officials were exonerated and dismissal from the service of the subordinates recommended, on the grounds that the charges were "frivolous and not sustained"); creates an unfavorable impression of government investigations.

Since the Postmaster-general (also commander-in-chief of the administration's political forces), has shown us how they deal with "frivolous and unsustained charges" after a few weeks deliberation, it is now in order to hear something about "serious and substantiated charges" hung up for nearly a year.

I have heretofore avoided public discussion of the course of the authorities in this case, preferring an orderly procedure through the legitimate channels, but the time has come when a continued silence would imply admission that unfounded charges were made, which developed on investigation to have been unworthy of official notice—a reflection not justified by the facts established, publication of which I invite.

The boast has been freely bandied to the effect that the investigation referred to would wind up in smoke—amount to nothing.

Perhaps the authors knew whereof they spoke. Be that as it may, the indifference of the authorities to a case of flagrant and defiant law violations reflects seriously on the efficiency of civil service, and such lax administration of laws tends to shake confidence in the sincerity of the government's guarantee to its employees of immunity from illegitimate exactions.

When the agencies responsible for the proper conduct of the civil service system balk at applying laws to facts (regardless of where the chips fall), signs of decay are patent, and something needs an overhauling if a drift toward a discreditable fabric of pretences and discounted promises is to be arrested.

It is time for the press to throw on the searchlight, and agitate reforms which will insure action against violators of the laws, more effective than "whitewash" investigations (or its equivalent, a silent termination). It is time to know whether civil service is fact or fiction.

If an elastic civil service system is necessary to the existence of political organizations, and public opinion is prepared to accept this version, the bars ought to be lowered to their legitimate level, for an unmasked "spoils system" is preferable to a "merit system" on the installment plan, at par with cheap jugglery."

E. N. CORNAY.

This breaking of silence—regarding the doings at Washington had a tendency to infuse new life into an investigated corpse—On receipt of the document directed to the Committee on Reform in Civil Service; Congressman Dupre (who was also interested in the proposed ousting of a score of clerks in the Post office Department on the charge of “Lese majeste” got busy.—His activity resulted in quite a stir—humorously depicted by a special correspondent of the Times-Democrat as follows:

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### DUPRE TURNS EXPLORER

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SEEKS REPORTS IN CASES OF NEW ORLEANS OFFICIALS.

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TRAIL IS LONG AND WINDS THROUGH MANY DEPARTMENTS.

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(Staff Special to the Times-Democrat.)

WASHINGTON, May 27.— As one of the Representatives from New Orleans, Garland Dupre is engaged in a search for the report on charges made against Postmaster Behan, former Collector McCall and other Federal officials in his district. It is now nearly a year since the charges were made and about eight months since Civil Service Commissioner McIlhenny completed his investigation and made a report.

It is not exactly a case of “button, button, who’s got the button.” On the contrary, it rises almost, if not altogether, to the dignity of the search for the lost Atlantis or the query as to the identity of the gentleman whom the King of France compelled to wear an iron mask. Another aspect of the matter suggests the thought that Charles Dickens was only a “piker” when he imagined that his circumlocution office would ever be considered a fine feat of figment construction. Mr. Dupre himself shudders at the mere thought of being ever called upon to suggest a proper characterization of the course the matter has taken, or probably, more properly speaking, has been allowed to take.

The Congressman began about two weeks ago, trying to find out what had become of the McIlhenny report, with a view to to finding out what would be the final disposition of it. His



primary interest is that created by the fact that he is a New Orleans Congressman. A secondary interest is indicated by the fact that he is a member of the House Committee on Reform of the Civil Service and that that committee is making an investigation as to the condition in the classified civil service.

First he wrote to the Civil Service Commission. He asked what had become of the report and if he might see the papers in the case. Back came an answer from Chariman Black saying that the papers had been sent to the President on Jan. 11, even as was set forth in The Times-Democrat about that time.

Unsatisfied and undaunted, the Congressman wrote to the White House to know what had become of the papers and if he might see them. Charles Dewey Hilles gave him fair answer that the papers had been sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, together with a copy of the observations thereon of the Attorney General. Mr. Hilles was delightfully indefinite. He did not say when or why the reference had been made to the Attorney General, what that official had said, or why, when his opinion had been received, the whole matter was referred to Mr. MacVeagh.

Wherefore another letter has gone forth from the Dupre office asking to be informed as to what Mr. MacVeagh is doing with the papers and if he might see them. Expecting that the Secretary of the Treasury will say that he has sent the papers to somebody else, possibly to the postoffice department, which Mr. Dupre loves and admires above all other branches of the government, he has prepared another letter of inquiry as to where the papers are and if he might see them so as to lose no time in his search.

What's he going to do with the papers when he gets them? It is so long since the first query was put out that that has become of no importance whatever. It is as useless as the query that used to be asked concerning the purpose to be served in finding the North Pole. Possibly he will contrast the celerity of action taken in the case of the nine postoffice clerks with the lack of progress made in charges against much higher officials, in which violation of a penal statute, forbidding assessments for political purposes being levied on persons in the classified service, is set forth."

The mention of Collector McCall is erroneous—The reporter evidently got this Official confused with other Departments.

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This search (which indicates the authorities entertain no such fond attachment for the files of the New Orleans case as to keep in close touch with its meanderings); seems to have paved the way for further inquiries regarding this “Banquos Ghost” tending to still further confusion as indicated by the following Special:

#### THAT McILHENNY REPORT.

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MR DUPRE MAY HEAR NEWS OF IT ON RETURN TO CAPITAL.

Staff Special to The Times-Democrat.

WASHINGTON, June 6.—In the language of the children's set, Garland Dupre is getting “warm,” not to say “hot,” in his search for the report Civil Service Commissioner McIlhenny made on civil service affairs in the New Orleans Post Office and Custom House. When he set out to find that long-missing document, he started others. It is these others that bring information indicating that Mr. Dupre is getting close to the query. The search has led from the Treasury to the White House, and the thought suggests itself that **the President's clerk told only a half truth, when he said that the report had been sent to the head of the Treasury Department.** The suggestion is that the report had not only been sent to the Treasury, but it had been received there, acted upon and actually returned to the President's office when the letter was written from the White House. If it has been returned to the White House, the chances are that it is either on its way, or about to be on the wing, with eagle swiftness, to the Post Office Department. Those who know the routine of the circumlocution office suggest that inasmuch as the report deals with assessments said to have been levied upon post office clerks, that after the Secretary of the Treasury had read the report and made his recommendations thereon, the natural order of things would be for the President to send it to the Postmaster-general for his observance.

When Mr. Dupre returns to the city his mail may destroy the most puzzling secret the executive branch of the government has ever known—the consumption of ten months after the completion of an investigation for that report to get around to the men most concerned in it, Postmaster Behan and others. Mr. Dupre's unopened mail may show that the report is even now on its way to New Orleans and that a reprimand from President Taft may have been written for those accused of forwarding the cause of the Republican party by violating the law."

The constant dodging and repeated evasions, which have confronted every move toward getting at the bottom of this case—the smooth dismissal of every inquiry from the first letter—to the latest report; leaves a trail very unlike a straight line.

The correspondence reproduced evidences such a mixture in dates;—that the exact status of the matter, as between the Commission and the President (up to dates covered) is rather indistinct.

A letter from the Commission dated March 11th., reads—"A vast number of other affairs of importance has occupied the attention of the Commission in addition to the attention it has paid your own application and earnest appeal." "The Commission therefore hopes that you will not be seriously inconvenienced by its longer retaining your letter." Yet the Commission's reply to the request of Congressman Dupre states the papers in the case was sent to the President January 11th. Again—on May 8th., the Commission acknowledges the receipt of a letter dated April 15th; also acknowledging receipt of letter to the President of same date (which had been transmitted to them.) It is not explained why letters pertaining to that file were sent to the Commission when the files were in the hands of the President,—or why the President acknowledged receipt of letters directed to him through the Commission one month after date, and without comment as to their contents—But these discrepancies are comparatively unimportant. The central fact is laws had been grossly violated, and these transgressions have been jealously secreted, and permitted to stand unrebuked until a member of Congress—



opened search for the records, wherein lies a delinquency more far reaching than law infractions of themselves; and on the whole, surroundings enjoin a dismissal of a worrisome matter of the nature of this case by a half-hearted and meagre application of the remedy—especially when the influences responsible, show no signs of contrition—or inclination of abatement.

After a torturous delay in meeting a question pressing for settlement, and when the end of postponement had been reached;—the President's opinion of this case at last found expression in a request for the resignation of heads of two departments (effective in seventy days) which opened up a desperate struggle to further clog the wheels, and for three weeks longer continued an inquest, to make sure that Civil-Service yet survived;—lending emphasis to the suspicion of an unholy alliance between politics, and public service. The sorrowful spectacle of efforts for a continued laws delay—furnished by the buffoonery of close advisers of the powers; (who are primarily responsible for the plight of officials who obeyed not wisely but too well), coupled to its toleration, robs the tardy law enforcement of half its effect.

On the heels of the President's reported request for the resignation of the Post-Master and Internal Revenue Collector,—the wires were put in motion,—for a last—ditch—fight which would indicate no spirit of respect for Civil-Service had been awoken after a vigil of Ten Months duration. The stubborn resistance to the inevitable on the part of local and foreign referees, the pleadings that nothing had been done to warrant such drastic measures—are best conveyed by the press reports here reproduced which hardly need Comment, as they speak in language too plain to be misunderstood or misconstrued.

## GEN. BEHAN WILL RESIGN AS POSTMASTER.

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TO WITHDRAW FROM FEDERAL OFFICE BECAUSE OF FINDINGS  
OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER MCILHENNY—WILL FOLLOW  
EXAMPLE OF INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTOR SEYBURN—  
PEARL WIGHT ASKED TO SELECT SUCCESSORS FOR THE  
TWO OFFICIALS.

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(Staff Special to The Times-Democrat.)

WASHINGTON, June 30.—As soon as Pearl Wight, now at his summer home at Lennox, Mass., can come to a decision, New Orleans will have, not only a new internal revenue collector, but a new postmaster as well. Positive information that Gen. Behan is also to resign because of the McIlhenny report and President Taft's conclusion thereon was received to-day.

The national committeemen has been asked to make recommendations for successors to Messrs. Behan and Seyburn, but thus far he has not complied. It was learned to-day that he was here a few days ago, for a few hours, putting up the best sort of a fight with President Taft, Secretary MacVeagh and Postmaster-general Hitchcock for the retention of the officials found guilty of flouting the classified civil service law in such a manner the soft-hearted President could not find a way for their retention in the service. He failed because he never had the slightest chance of winning. The serious character of the civil service commissioner's findings of fact were communicated to Mr. Wight last winter, and he made a fight for the officials at that time. President Taft has not been in a hurry to throw them out of office, being willing to give them a liberal amount of time to prepare themselves for the change made necessary by their disregard of the law.

While the report has never been made public, and may never be given out because the officials are to be allowed to resign, it is understood that the officials are lucky in that they are to escape prosecution for the violations of the law charged against them and proved to the satisfaction of the civil service commissioner.

Neither the officials of the Treasury and Postoffice departments nor the Louisiana members of Congress have any idea as to

the men likely to be selected to fill the prospective vacancies National Committeeman Wight took none of them into his confidence, nor is he in correspondence with any of them now. He is supposed to be in communication with leading Republicans in New Orleans. That, however, is based upon the supposition that he would not undertake to make his selections without at least consulting Frank B. Williams, Collector Seyburn's brother-in-law, although, on account of these charges and the investigations of the supposed customs frauds perpetrated in the New Orleans Custom House during Collector McCall's tenure, the political relations between the two men have not been the most cordial imaginable.

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(From Times-Democrat.)

### BEHAN HAS HOPES.

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SHOWED CORRESPONDENCE WITH WASHINGTON.

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Notwithstanding all the reports and rumors that have been spread broadcast, Postmaster W. J. Behan is still on the job and has a slight hope of continuing on the job. He has not resigned, nor has his resignation been demanded, though he has had pretty strong intimations that it was badly wanted.

General Behan himself is still preserving a sphinxlike silence on the whole matter. Up to the present time he still believes it is purely a matter between himself and the government, though he unburdened himself to the executive committee of the Republican Party at a meeting held yesterday afternoon at the St. Charles Hotel.

General Behan presented to the committee all the correspondence that had passed between himself and the president and the postmaster general anent the charges in the McIlhenny report, and the committee deliberated long and carefully on the situation, and finally came to the conclusion that they would make no recommendations for a postmaster until Tuesday.

The meeting was called for yesterday because of the desire to settle the postmastership and the internal revenue collectorship



matters before Mr. Williams leaves for Europe. These matters have already delayed his departure and yesterday's failure to reach any conclusion has caused him to again defer his departure until Wednesday.

Pearl Wight is making hasty trips between his summer home in Massachusetts and Washington, and at last accounts was trying to save General Behan's job for him. Whatever recommendation is made by the committee will be only after Mr. Wight's approval, and he will present the names to the appointive power in Washington.

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(From Daily Picayune.)

#### BEHAN AND SEYBURN.

On the arrival of Frank B. Williams from New Orleans to-morrow morning it is believed that some action will be taken in reference to the offices of postmaster at New Orleans and collector of internal revenue. It is the opinion of those familiar with the trouble, and the wishes of the Republican leaders, that General Behan may retain his office, and that Walter G. Kemper, a relative of Mr. Williams, will succeed Mr. Seyburn as collector. The cases are in the hands of President Taft, who has not given out any information, and he will not do so until after the Louisiana leaders have been heard.

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#### WILLIAMS AND WIGHT PULL TOGETHER.

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#### BIG CHIEFS OF LA. REPUBLICANS TRYING TO SAVE LOCAL FEDERAL OFFICIALS.

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Republicans interested in retaining Postmaster W. J. Behan and Internal Revenue Collector E. I. Seyburn are on tiptoe waiting for news from Washington.

State central committee chairman, Frank B. Williams, who is en route to Europe, and who left New Orleans Wednesday, will stop over in Washington and make a mighty effort to hold his brother-in-law, Mr. Seyburn, in office. Friends of Mr. General Behan appear to be largely depending on the influence of national

Republican committeeman Pearl Wight to take care of the general.

The outcome is still problematical. It is uncertain whether or not the two officials booked for a return to private life will be successful.

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## WILLIAMS PLEADS FOR OFFICIALS

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HEAD OF STATE REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON TO URGE RETENTION OF MESSRS. BEHAN AND SEYBURN.

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(Staff Special to The Times-Democrat.)

WASHINGTON, July 14.—Frank B. Williams, head of the Louisiana Republican State organization, arrived here today and hopes to save the officials heads of Postmaster W. J. Behan and Internal Revenue Collector Seyburn. The latter had formally tendered his resignation, but, as, Mr. Williams said this evening, it has not been accepted, and Mr. Williams said he did not know whether it would be.

The Louisiana man did not waste any time in getting near those who will be able to save the two officials, if anybody can. He had lunch with Postmaster-general Hitchcock and called upon Mr. MacVeagh. He said this evening that he did not know anything more about the cases of the two men than when he got here. Nor does he expect to know anything more when he departs. He is going to present their cases in the best light possible, but has no hope of any decision before he leaves town.

The civil service reformers are urging President Taft and the Cabinet officers concerned in the New Orleans cases to stand by the report of Civil Service Commissioner McIlhenny; that is, they are urging that the officials stand pat on their approval of the McIlhenny recommendations, the chief aim of which is to separate Gen. Behan and Mr. Seyburn from the service.

The Taft administration, it is feared by them, will yield to the pressure from Louisiana, because it will need the votes from Louisiana. If the Wight-Williams combination should be turned

down, there is the possibility of a combination with the other faction that would result in an uncontested delegation coming up from Louisiana, pledged to do the best for the combination and at the same time do something to "get even" with the administration. That would be horrible. As matters now stand, the administration is reasonably certain of having two delegations from Louisiana, so that it can choose the one that will do the most for it.

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### PRESIDENT TO GIVE SEYBURN CHANCE

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RESIGNATION NOT ACCEPTED SO THAT COLLECTOR MAY EXPLAIN.

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(Special to The Item.)

WASHINGTON, July 11.—It became known authoritatively to-day that the resignation of Edward I. Seyburn as collector of internal revenue at New Orleans had not been accepted by the president, it had been held in suspense to await a statement of Seyburn of his side of the case.

Friends of the collector have told the president that as a matter of common fairness Seyburn should be given a chance to be heard, if he wants it. For this reason Mr. Taft has not accepted the resignation even though it was tendered after an adverse report from the civil service commission. There is little doubt that in the end Seyburn will be retired. The resignation is being held more as a matter of form than anything else. However, if the collector should make an effective defense he might make it embarrassing for his enemies who prosecuted the charges against him before the commission.

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### WILLIAMS TO MAKE FIGHT FOR SEYBURN.

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REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WOULD SAVE  
HEAD.

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(July 12th. N. O. Item.)

Mr. Frank B. Williams, chairman of the Republican Executive Committee, leaves Wednesday night for Europe, by way of Wash-



ington, where he will do everything in his power to bring about a reconsideration of the case of Mr. Edwin I. Seyburn, who was requested to resign his position as collector of internal revenue.

That Mr. Williams will also join forces with Mr. Wight in the effort to forestall any unfavorable action, in the case of General Behan, is also said to be the program.

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(From New Orleans Item, July 13.)

### SHAKEUP HURTS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

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FEDERAL OFFICIAL DECLARES MCILHENNY AND HIS REPORT  
HAS DAMAGED G. O. P.

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The results of Civil Service Commissioner John McIlhenny's report of the political condition of the customhouse and the subsequent unpleasantness amounts to a serious blow at the Republican party, according to one observer, who is a prominent Republican and federal official.

"Mr. McIlhenny could not have conceived a way to strike the Republican party in Louisiana a harder blow than he succeeded in giving it with his report," said this Republican official Thursday. "What, at most, were trivial offenses, if offenses at all, against civil service rules, were pronounced to an extent that has pretty nearly destroyed the possibility of the maintenance of discipline among civil service employees by the heads of departments.

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(From Daily Picayune.)

### HITCHCOCK HANDLING BEHAN CASE.

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The question of the postmastership seems to be as yet the sole topic of conversation in Republican circles. While no official announcement was made yesterday, it was learned, however, that the resignation of General Behan has been safe in the hands of Postmaster General Hitchcock for the past week. The docu-

ment, however, is only to be handed President Taft when, in the judgment of Mr. Hitchcock, General Behan has lost all chances of remaining in office. It was learned from absolutely reliable sources that Postmaster Behan, a few days before Collector of Internal Revenues Seyburn had forwarded his resignation to Washington, had written the postmaster general inclosing his resignation in order to forestall any move in that direction, should the president demand the retirement of General Behan.

It was known all along that Postmaster General Hitchcock was working in the interest of General Behan with a view of conciliating matters, and just as long as Mr. Hitchcock believes that there is a hope of retaining General Behan in office the latter's resignation will be withheld.

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## WILLIAMS' TALKS WITH HITCHCOCK.

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### THE REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN CONFERS WITH THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

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#### TRYING TO HOLD BEHAN AND SEYBURN IN OFFICE.

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THE PICAYUNE BUREAU,  
Post Building,

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 14, 1911.

Frank B. Williams, chairman of the Republican state committee of Louisiana, arrived from New Orleans this morning. He had an interview with Postmaster General Hitchcock this afternoon, during which he advanced a strong argument why Postmaster Behan and Collector of Internal Revenue Seyburn should be permitted to retain their offices, notwithstanding the report of Civil Service Commissioner McIlhenny, which was without any recommendation. General Behan has not submitted his resignation, and therefore no one has been recommended by the Louisiana Republicans to succeed him. It is believed that President Taft will not ask for his resignation, and that there will be no occasion to consider another recommendation.

Mr. Seyburn's resignation is in the hands of President Taft, but he has not accepted it. Mr. Williams will not visit the White House, but possibly he will see Secretary MacVeagh to-morrow, before leaving for New York. He hopes that no change will be made in the office of collector, but if the resignation should be accepted the appointment of Walter Y. Kemper will be requested, and the recommendation of the committee will be placed on file. Mr. Williams said this evening that he did not blame Mr. McIlhenny for doing his duty in making an investigation last fall, and he believed that the entire matter can be explained amicably.

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### HOPE FOR REPRIEVES.

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FRIENDS OF RESIGNED OFFICIALS STILL FIGHTING FOR THEM.

(Staff Special to The Times-Democrat.)

WASHINGTON, July 15.—“While there is life there is hope,” said one of Postmaster Behan's friends yesterday, meaning that until the General is actually out of office there is a chance that his official scalp may be saved. The same is true with regard to Collector Seyburn.

State Chairman Williams had lunch again yesterday with Postmaster-general Hitchcock, and again talked over the whole matter.

As to the collector and the postmaster, they will have opportunity without end to write letters to the White House while they are getting ready to quit their office, hoping that the latest epistle will prove to be the one that will bring about a reversal of the verdict.

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### BEHAN RESIGNS; EFFECTIVE SEPT. 30

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(Special to the Item.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 15.—Postmaster Behan of New Orleans has tendered his resignation and it will take effect on September 30.



Postmaster General Hitchcock conferred with the president to-day about the situation in the New Orleans office and immediately afterwards he let it be known that Mr. Behan had sent in his resignation and that it had been accepted.

He has been allowed until the end of the quarter to get out. The resignation was voluntarily submitted by the postmaster after he had been tipped off that it was wanted, as announced in *The Item* a week ago, the administration decided to give the official the opportunity to retire, this opportunity was at once embraced.

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The deep concern manifested on the part of individuals, who occupy no position which calls for their advice in the enforcement of laws,—coupled to the latitude accorded them in dissecting a question belonging to no one outside of the authorities charged with the administration of Civil Service—; is a reflection of no less magnitude than the fact, that while officials were disciplined by a removal from office,—those responsible for the acts causing such removals, have escaped the rebuke and repudiation which belongs to agents who violate a trust.

It is true the President has removed from office two of his appointees who disobeyed laws; and defied Civil Service, but has this action more than half met the situation? Does the simple separation of two officials from the Government service, whose actions are but incidents of a system; tend to impress a higher respect for Civil Service in the future, than that exhibited in the past, when the representative largely responsible for the wrongs, received a virtual stamp of approval, by a continuance of his functions in the capacity of referee, and dispenser of patronage.

If the Postmaster and Internal Revenue Collector trespassed laws,—where lies the responsibility? Did one official assume the role of Censor to pass on applications for positions in the Government Service on his own motion? Or was he selected to perform that part? Did the other official (who found no such instructions in his official guide,) send applicants for positions to this referee on his own motion, or did some one direct him to do

so?—the answer is too plain—such uncommon performances point too directly to “system” to admit of discussion—

Then, if these were systematic law violations, who stood at the head of the system if not the men who were armed with the power of patronage? Again, if the representatives of the administration were instrumental in causing the violations of laws on the part of the President’s appointees,—and if such misdirected influences have not impaired their standing— (which so appear from the fact they continue to enjoy full confidence,) some light is needed in the premises in order to reconcile such an attitude with what the public expect of the Custodians of Civil Service; for as a rule, when agents are continued in authority the presumption is strong their work has been satisfactorily performed.

As to the specific acts which caused removals from office,—they were but the legitimate consequences of a prevailing order— (not uncommon) where Public Service and Politics associate. Honest Civil Service under the dispensation obtaining in Louisiana is as impossible as for a stream to rise above its source. The mockery of Civil Service which found expression in what has been recited, is but the legitimate fruits of an order where the Dollar mark is the recognized pass-port to Official preferment. What other promise could be held out, when one man power takes from the hands of the heads of Departments the authority, to appoint their subordinates, under a code in conflict with law?—what else can be expected when that power (acquired as a recognition of the Dollars turned in the Coffers of a political organization), is aimed solely to the end of a sure return of these Dollars, ostensibly an individual donation.

Can it be Mr. Hitchcock, the manager of the Republican Organization was ignorant of the fact that the individual checks of his recognized Leader, of Ten and Twenty Thousand Dollar size, were a mere underwriting of the fund expected for the cause? If he did not suspect that there was some avenue for reimbursement of these liberal donations,—he evidently had an exaggerated idea of the glory of Republican leadership in Louisiana.

It is a notorious fact that the Republican organization in Louisiana (composed mainly of office holders, and devoted largely to raising campaign funds, and gathering delegates for National



Conventions) has been perniciously active in matters not in the legitimate scope of Party affairs. If Mr. Hitchcock (the recognized leader of the Party) was ignorant of that fact, he has not been as well posted as one occupying his station should be; and if the President has failed to inform himself on that point, it was not for the lack of opportunity—as the record made up by the investigation had by the Civil Service Commission, has been at his disposal at least since the month of January; to say nothing of information imparted through letters on the subject.

The first step of the gentlemen who have (for the past nine years) guided the destinies of the Republican Party in Louisiana, after acquiring title to Federal Patronage (the sine-qua-non-for the up building of a respectable Party, of which so much has been heard, abroad as well as at home) was in a direction in conflict with laws, to which even political Parties owe obedience. The standing of these men (who are of recognized integrity) would preclude the charge of malice; or deliberate intent to conspire to break down laws established for the promotion of public service; but that fact no more alters conditions resulting from their ideas of Party organization, than would an error in administering a nostrum alter the consequences.

It would appear, as over zealous fresh converts, these new leaders lost sight of the broad distinction between the responsibilities of public affairs,—and the management of their sugar-plantations and saw-mills; which possibly led to the idea that there was nothing wrong in such legitimate bargains as a modest 10% for the “good of the cause,” a matter which in private business, concerns none but the parties to agreement; and on that distinct line grew visions of a powerful organization.

It is a well known fact that rules were promulgated for guidance in the distribution of patronage; and the executive committee of the organization whose functions were to parcel out offices, (after the leader, and referee of the administration indicated his choice) looked to the head of each Department for an account of his stewardship. It is a notorious fact the first requirements for recommendation for appointment to Presidential offices were 10% of the salary attached to the position, and a surrender to the Committee of minor appointments (when practicable) —and



to such minor appointments, (wherever circumstances were favorable), a like condition of 10“% was attached; the Chief dispenser of favors, being promptly advised (under the rules) of all vacancies of any consequence. This chief passed on the eligibility of candidates, (ostensibly with the assistance of his committee) and these recommendations always proved satisfactory to the head of the Department; all of whom seemed to repose unlimited confidence in the wise discretion of the “Giver of good things;” and thus, the system worked without a hitch, or friction producing something for “The doubtful Districts of the North” which found its way periodically to the Coffers of the National Organization in the shape of personal? checks of the chief—to the tune of \$10,000—per installment, one time as high as \$20,000—The system was good to those who were good to the system—and especially was it good to its Treasurers—which is substantially demonstrated in the fact that this position, by some coincidence unexplainable, invariably proved to be a stepping stone to high stations,—no less than four of the ex-treasurers having been honored with Presidential appointments. In the light of this history of official, and semi-official estimate of the “Merit System” there was nothing astonishing in the expression of a prominent official (in reference to the resignations) as quoted by the New Orleans Item of July 13th. to the effect “The offences is offences at all against Civil Service rules were trivial”—Nor was it surprising that the leader of the organization also thought the matter so trivial, that he said, after conferring with Mr. Hitchcock (as reported by a correspondent of the Picayune July 14th.) “He believed the entire matter could be explained amicably.” Neither was it far-fetched for an official to make the boast that the names of employees who testified in the investigation had been handed the local powers, who would see that they would “walk the plank”—in the event of an adverse decision.

Whether or not the conclusions finally reached were an “amicable ending”—the events of the closing hours point at least to an affinity between the powers and those responsible for the situation, which might in a measure account for a simple case becoming so complicated as to require months of study to untangle.

The attitude of Mr. Hitchcock in this case as indicated by Press news)—calls for a reference to another matter not entirely disconnected—The following explains itself—

## HOLDS OUT LITTLE HOPE

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POSTMASTER GENERAL HEARS SENATOR FOSTER.

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CLERKS CHOSE WRONG TIME TO MAKE CHARGES, IS  
THEORY.

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(Staff Special to The Times-Democrat.)

WASHINGTON, July 19.—There is but little hope that Senator Foster will be able to procure a mitigation of the harsh sentences passed upon the New Orleans post office clerks. He interviewed the Postmaster-general to-day, and in doing so he went into a hornet's nest, nearly everybody connected with the Postmaster-general's office is ready to fight about the case. But for the intervention of Senator Foster and other members of the delegation, the clerks undoubtedly would have been dismissed.

Their chief fault lies in not choosing a better time for making what now are regarded as frivolous charges against Postmaster Behan's supervisory force. They made them just about the time President Taft and the Postmaster-general were reading over the report on Messrs. Behan and Seyburn by Civil Service Commissioner McIlhenny. That report made Messrs. Taft and Hitchcock angry. Instead of venting their feelings in full upon the commission officials, it seems some of it fell upon the clerks who made the faux pas of preferring their charges at the wrong time.

It was learned to-day that one of the clerks suffering a reduction of \$300 in pay, was receiving at the time of his reduction only \$900 a year. The Postmaster-general, in discussing the case to-day, said that in a year he will be promoted to \$800. How long it will take him to get back to \$900 will depend on how long it takes those above him to die or resign from the service.

Senator Foster argued with Postmaster-general Hitchcock that a reduction like that is not discipline but vengeance, and not becoming in a Cabinet officer unfamiliar with the harrying done by the inspectors detailed; and with the bedevilment of the clerks by the political fund collectors, who, it is now coming to be generally understood, have made the New Orleans post office one of the most notorious plague spots, from the point of view of a civil service reformer, in the whole country.

The Senator told Mr. Hitchcock that the inspectors on duty at New Orleans are now doing more to stir up trouble than they are to do away with it. The Postmaster-general seemed surprised to learn that inspectors are now carrying on an investigation there and he said he would stop it so as to give the office a chance to cool off and get down to a healthy normal condition, if such a thing is possible."

The case of the Post Office Clerks referred to related to charges (as I am informed) to the general effect—that employees who stood close to the organization enjoyed the benediction of their superiors, while those out-side of the breast-works were subjects for discriminations. The hurried investigation of these charges it is complained was shifted in other directions—the Postal Clerks association being the subject of inquiry to a great extent in lieu of the charges, which were skimmed over on the grounds that that phase of the matter had already been investigated by the Civil Service Commission.

Such, it appears was the offences of the clerks, and this inquiry carried with its findings—a penalty—which must (in the light of the system here shown to have existed) stand as a blot on Mr. Hitchcock's Official Career.—To discipline defenseless employees of the Government, at the cost of privation to the innocent families of the victims, for no greater offense than the exercise of the right of petition (especially when conditions as well known to the Postmaster General as any one else, were such as to lend color) reaches further than "misuse of power"—It smacks of a species of abuse of authority, bearing a resemblance too close to "Darkest-Russia," to escape the disapproval of every fair minded American.



Had a fraction of the diligence exerted to expedite a decision in a case affecting defenseless subordinates, been applied towards reaching a conclusion in the case damaging to superiors in authority—it is highly probable there would never have been such a case to investigate as “The postal clerks charges”—and there would have been nothing to add to a situation already sufficiently embarrassing; and, to say the least, not reassuring as to the effectiveness of Civil Service.

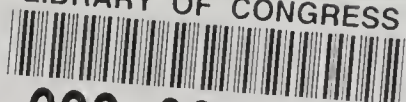
The fact that it is possible for an employee to be removed from office without “Due process” and the victim be denied even a decision on a complaint;—the fact it is possible for applicants for positions in the Public Service, bearing certificates from the Civil Service Commission, to be required to report to referees of a political organization for an examination which calls for answering such questions as:

“Are you a registered Republican? “Are you willing to” give 10% of your salary?” and the fact it is possible for such rapes on Civil Service to be treated as trifles, by being countenanced to stand for nearly a year without action; impresses something more than statutes and regulations are needed,—something more than messages to Congress extolling the grandeur of Civil Service, before the system is anchored on a solid foundation; and as long as such lethargy (the symptoms of something out of a plumb) is possible; “The Civil Service Reform League” need not disband for the want of a mission; for laws sometime in action, and sometime asleep, are as serviceable in bonfires as on the statutes. Hampered as it is by forces working counter to its purpose, beset as it is on all sides by influences tending to block its course towards absolute separation of Public Service from Politics, Civil Service needs, to combat such evils, a rigid prop, supplied only through the virile force of promptly executed laws;—otherwise, the system must sink in the vortex which has swallowed up like institutions pampered by baneful political influences, making in-roads while laws sleep.

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